



ALOHA



RIMPAC

"Navigator"



HO'OKELE

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U.S. Navy photo by MCC (AW/SW/NAC) Keith DeVinney
Ships and submarines participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2012 sail in formation in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands.

Destroyer Squadron 31 conducts change of command ceremony

Story and photo by
MC3 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West Det.
Hawaii

Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31 (DESRON 31) held a change of command ceremony July 31 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Capt. Wallace G. Lovely relieved Capt. David A. Welch as commanding officer.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was guest speaker for the event and praised Welch and DESRON 31.

"The largest and most capable destroyer squadron in the Pacific Fleet, the largest destroyer squadron in our Navy's arsenal, they never missed a mission, ever," Ponds said. "They were always ready, always prepared to meet (the) mission, whether conducting



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, (right) commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, presents Capt. David A. Welch, former deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 31 (DESRON 31), with the Navy Legion of Merit Medal during the DESRON 31 change of command ceremony July 31.

real world operations as an independent deployer or operating as a part of a car-

rier strike group. Those missions led by Dave (Welch) at DESRON 31

were always a success," he said.

The change of command

ceremony is a time-honored tradition, which formally restates to the officers and enlisted personnel of the command the continuity of the authority of command.

"This was my dream assignment for major command as a surface warfare officer, and I've been challenged, energized and humbled by the opportunity to lead and mentor this staff and so many fantastic commanding officers and great Sailors," Welch said. "My relationship with each of the commanding officers has been a high point, and the list of naval professionals who have had command in this squadron is impressive."

Welch then relinquished command of DESRON 31 to Lovely, who spoke of his plans for the squadron.

"Today does not mark a phase shift in direction or priorities. Our fundamental charge remains, ships ready for tasking. My staff and I are ready, willing and

motivated to help you succeed. Leave no doubt you are responsible for the mission readiness of your ships and the safe keeping of our most precious national assets, your Sailors."

In May 2008, DESRON 31 assumed duties as immediate superior in command for all Pearl Harbor-based destroyers and frigates under an operational alignment to increase force presence and surge capacity in the western Pacific under Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. DESRON 31 was also assigned as a task group commander for bilateral naval exercises in Southeast Asia.

DESRON 31 moved to Pearl Harbor from San Diego in 1991 and adopted the motto "Ke Koa O Ke Kai," which means "warriors from the sea."

Welch's next duty assignment will be at the office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C.

Australian minister for defence visits Hawaii during RIMPAC exercise

Story and photo by
MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support Element
West, Detachment Hawaii

HONOLULU – Australian Minister for Defence Stephen Smith participated in a wreath-laying ceremony July 25 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

This was Smith's first official visit to Honolulu as minister for defence. The early morning ceremony involved a rifle salute, playing of Taps, live performances of the national anthem for both Australia and the United States, and a presentation of colors.

"This morning, minister for defence came here with his official party and held a very small service and laid a wreath just

to remember those people who have gone before us and paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we all enjoy today in this region," said Commodore Stephen Woodall of the Royal Australian Naval Attaché based in Washington, D.C.

"Whenever distinguished personnel visit, we like to bring them here to Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific to remember the fallen and remember the long and shared history Australia has with the United States, particularly here in the Pacific," Woodall said.

Smith met with officials at United States Pacific Command (PACOM), Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and viewed naval exercises involving Australia's participation in the 2012 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

"We had our minister for defence, the

honorable Stephen Smith, visiting Honolulu to basically look at the RIMPAC exercise but also to have some discussion with senior U.S. military personnel particularly PACOM," Woodall said.

Smith was also scheduled to visit the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and the Australian guided-missile frigate HMAS Darwin (FFG 04) as they participate in RIMPAC 2012.

The Australian Minister of Defence Stephen Smith participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in remembrance of service members who lost their lives. The visit is part of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.



Region commander shows vested interest in back-to-school safety **See page A-2**



RIMPAC **See page A-4**



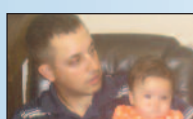
PACFLT commander highlights importance of diversity at NNOA conference **See page A-6**



Mrs. Hawaii 2012 will be guest speaker at Joint Spouses Conference Hawaii **See page A-7**



RIMPAC sports continues this weekend **See page B-1**



'Boot Camp for New Dads' helps rookie fathers-to-be **See page B-4**

RIMPAC

Beach Exercise



A U.S. Navy landing craft air cushioned (LCAC-73) beaches July 28 at the Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB), Waimanalo, Hawaii.



A U.S. Navy landing craft air cushioned (LCAC-73) approaches Bellows Beach at the Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB), Waimanalo, Hawaii.



Staff Sgt. Thomas Schaffer from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, plays a recording for a non-combatant evacuation operation after securing the beachhead at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB), Waimanalo, Hawaii.



A landing craft air cushion (LCAC), assigned to Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 5, departs the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2012.



Photos by MC2 Daniel Barker and MCpl Marc-Andre Gaudreault

Photo illustration

Region commander shows vested interest in back-to-school safety

Bill Doughty

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds put on a safety vest, picked up a traffic sign and stepped into a busy intersection to serve as an honorary crossing guard July 30, the first day back to school in Hawaii.

Ponds, the commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, visited the Halsey Terrace military housing community near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) with Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Marc Sibal.

They were there to raise awareness of back-to-school safety issues and in support of Kelly Boyd, president of the Aliamanu Elementary Parent-Teacher Association, who is recruiting parent volunteers.

"Two other PTA board members and I brought up our concerns at a community advisory board meeting about Securitas (a private security firm) not providing crossing guards," Boyd said.

"We hoped for Navy participation and assistance," Boyd said. "Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, and we all understand why, they aren't able to provide a dedicated person as a crossing guard, so we need parent volunteers."

Resources are not available to fund crossing guards in housing areas. Ponds hopes to raise interest and awareness of the need for volunteers to step forward and help.

"We need every parent to get involved. I encourage you to answer the call for volunteers, ask how you can help, and pitch in where you can. We're counting on you," Ponds said.

"Our Navy has stated that people are the most valuable resource. As parents, I am sure we can agree that our most precious resource is our children. We at Navy Region Hawaii are committed to doing everything we can in ensuring the welfare and the safety of our children," Ponds said. "Please join us in this commitment. Get involved, please."

Boyd said parents are already contacting her because of the awareness campaign by leaders like Ponds, Sibal, JBPHH Commander Capt. Jeffrey James and JBPHH Command Master Chief CMDCM (SW) Brian Ortega, among others.

"I really appreciate their support," Boyd said. "It's been amazing. The master chiefs and senior chiefs are getting the word out to families. They did more than I could ever do at the PTA level to get the word out to parents."

At least one command has stepped up to support the effort.

"NIOC Hawaii DIRSUP (Direct Support) stepped up as partners to the school for the first two weeks while we organized parent support," Boyd said. "They have been invaluable to our success."

Commands, groups and individuals can help in other ways, too.

"Every parent can help the school or the PTA as a volunteer in their community," Sibal said. "Every person can help ensure the safety of our children who are walking to and from school or to their bus stops every day. Drivers need to be aware of speed limits and obey the rules of the road."

Boyd invites parents to collaborate on this and other issues that affect their community. Collaboration



Photo illustration

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, picks up a traffic sign and steps into a busy intersection as an honorary crossing guard July 30. The admiral was hoping to raise awareness of the need for volunteers to help as crossing guards to see the children safely across streets while going to and from school. Resources are not available to fund crossing guards in housing areas.

ration is the "T" in the movement called VEST: Vigilance (be observant), Engagement (get involved), Speed (call 911 immediately) and Together (working as one community).

"If we want our community to be safer, we need to be out there," she said. "We need more personal responsibility."

"Everybody wants a neighborhood watch, but

we need volunteers to make it work," Boyd said.

Navy Region Hawaii and the Forest City housing team will work with residents and the Honolulu Police Department to

arrange for, set up, resource and train a neighborhood watch program.

To learn more or to volunteer, call your PTA, school or housing area office.

U.S. Navy photos by CMC Marc Sibal

PACAF C-17 Demonstration Team performs at Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Story and photos by
2nd Lt. Jessica Colby

15th Wing Public Affairs

The Pacific Air Forces C-17 Aerial Demonstration Team, the only active C-17 Globemaster III demonstration team, performed July 21 and 22 at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Air Expo 2012 at McChord Field, Wash.

The air exposition presented 20 aerial performers and more than 40 static military and civilian aircraft from across the United States. In addition to numerous aviation centric displays, the show was the largest demonstration ever held at McChord Field with more than 170,000 attendees.

Spectators of all ages, both military and civilian, cheered during the 12-minute exhibition which highlighted the capabilities of the military transport aircraft.

The profile included a maximum power takeoff and climb, a high speed



Members of the Pacific Air Forces C-17 Aerial Demonstration Team make final pre-flight preparations prior to performing at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Air Expo 2012 at McChord Field, Wash.

pass, a slow speed pass, a 360-degree turn, an assault landing and an immediate backing on the runway. The visual show was complemented by a custom soundtrack and a narration given by Capt. Angela Kimler, narrator for the PACAF C-17 Demonstration Team, and pilot with the 535th Airlift Squadron.

“It was great hearing about the aircraft while it was flying,” said Frances

Ross, Seattle resident and attendant at the JBLM Air Expo 2012. “It really helps the crowd understand what’s going on and to appreciate the recent and current missions of the C-17.”

Air Expo 2012 was historic for another reason as it marked the first air show hosted by JBLM as a joint base at full operational capability.

The successful display of

joint service operations hit home with an aircrew member of the demo team from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“As a former member of JBLM and current member of JBPHH, it’s interesting to see the growth of the U.S. Army and Air Force as they

strengthen their ties,” said Capt. Adrian Martin, C-17 demonstration team pilot.

The JBLM Air Expo kicked off the 2012 demonstration season. Currently, there are six scheduled performances. The team will perform close to home at the Kaneohe Bay Airshow at

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe as well as international locations such as Japan and India.

The next performance for the PACAF C-17 Aerial Demonstration Team is at the Yokota Friendship Festival in Japan this August.



A C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam sets up for landing July 22 as part of the Pacific Air Forces C-17 Aerial Demonstration Team at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Air Expo 2012 at McChord Field, Wash.

USS Nimitz is back at Pearl Harbor-Hickam

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) (left) passes by the Battleship Missouri Memorial as the ship returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following operations supporting the Rim of the Pacific 2012 exercise.



Diverse Views



“Athletes at the London summer Olympics are breaking records and bringing home medals. What is your favorite summer Olympic sporting event and why?”

Engineman 1st Class

Stacey Stanerson

Fleet and Family Readiness Program

“Curling. It is the greatest sport there is.”



2nd Lt Thomas Hansen

692nd Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group

“Swimming! It is the sport I grew up with, I have been a competitive swimmer most of my life. It is awesome to see it at the highest level.”



Lt. Megan White

Transient Personnel Unit

“Table Tennis.”



Staff Sgt. Marvin Teyes

792nd Intelligence Support Squadron

“Water polo, because it is very unique and uncommon.”



Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Benjamin Carter

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“Air Pistol.”



(Provided by MC2 Heidi McCormick and David Underwood Jr.)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

‘Wildcat’ fighters fly through the skies

Grumman F4F-3 “Wildcat” fighters of Fighting Squadron Three (VF-3) are shown here in flight April 10, 1942 near the former Naval Air Station, Kaneohe on Oahu, Hawaii. The planes were flown by VF-3 Commanding Officer Lt. Cmdr. John S. Thach, and Lt. Edward H. O’Hare. Both of these aircraft were lost while assigned to Fighting Squadron Two (VF-2) with USS Lexington (CV#2), during the Battle of Coral Sea in May 1942.

U.S. Navy photo by PH2 H.S. Fawcett



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The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) sail in close formation during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2012.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Raul Moreno Jr

RIMPAC

RIMPAC activities wrap up during first week of August

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation has a variety of activities during the first week of August for all RIMPAC commands in Hawaii.

Visit “RIMPAC Central” located across the street from Bravo Piers 23 and 24 at Hotel Pier.

For complete and updated information on all of the

activities, visit the website www.greatlifehawaii.com

Some of the upcoming events include:

Aug. 3

- Explore Oahu’s most popular sites with an around-the-island tour. The cost is \$20 per person and a minimum of six people is required. The activity departs RIMPAC Central at 10 a.m. and

returns at 3 p.m.

Aug. 4

Take a historical tour of the Arizona Memorial and visit the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. The cost is \$29 and a minimum of six people is required. The tour departs RIMPAC Central at 2 p.m. and returns at 6 p.m.

Aug. 5

Take a free trip to Sea Life

Park. A maximum of 40 people may attend the event, which departs RIMPAC Central at 9 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. This is a Single Sailor Program activity.

Aug. 6

Go horseback riding on country trails overlooking Waimea Valley. The cost is \$72 per person with a minimum of six and maximum of

nine participants. The activity departs RIMPAC Central at 10 a.m. and noon, with return times of 1 and 3 p.m.

Aug. 7

Go paddleboarding on the Haleiwa River. The cost is \$20 per person and a minimum of six people is required. The activity departs RIMPAC Central at 10 a.m. and returns at 2 p.m.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Keith Devinney

Ships and submarines participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2012 sail in formation in the waters around the Hawaiian islands.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Robertson

U.S. Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and South Korean marines move to an objective during Rim of the Pacific 2012 on July 31 at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Robert Bush

Royal Canadian Army Warrant Officer Robby Fraser, a platoon warrant officer with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, directs machine gun fire at a support-by-fire position during a platoon-size live-fire assault as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2012.



Photos by MC1 Anderson C. Bomjardim, Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth, MC2 (SW/AW) Eric Crosby and LAC Amanda McErich
Photo illustration



MORE RIMPAC

HIGHLIGHTS



A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon receives fuel from an U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker during an aerial refueling mission.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Robertson

U.S. Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment provide security during a assault exercise July 31 at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Robertson)



Ensign Steven McClendon climbs down the side of the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) onto a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) to conduct a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercise with the Royal Australian navy Anzac-class frigate HMAS Perth (FFH 157) .

U.S. Navy photo by Raul Moreno Jr.

(Right) Boatswains on board Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Algonquin (DDG 283) prepare to launch an inflatable boat during a man overboard exercise July 26, in the Pacific Ocean.

Canadian Forces photo by MCpl Marc-Andre Gaudreault

(Below) Soldiers from the Non-combatant Evacuation Operation Company, 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from Shilo, Manitoba, disembark from Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters at the Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB), Waimanalo, Hawaii on July 28, 2012.

Canadian Forces photo by MCpl Marc-Andre Gaudreault



PACFLT commander highlights importance of diversity at NNOA conference

Landess Kearns

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS (NNS) -- The commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet spoke about the importance of diversity in the sea services during a panel discussion July 25 at the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) conference in New Orleans.

Adm. Cecil D. Haney praised the mission of the NNOA, underscoring the group's personal impact on his career and its importance to the Navy as a whole.

The annual NNOA conference, first held in 1973, consists of numerous educational and professional



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Corwin Colbert

Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, answers questions from service members assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, and the submarine tenders USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), at Polaris Point in Guam. Haney visited military installations on Guam before returning back to his headquarters in Hawaii.

workshops, seminars and exhibits. Its prime focus is to support the sea services in recruiting, retaining and developing the careers of minority officers.

U.S. Coast Guard Vice Adm. Manson Brown and Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Tracy Garrett were also on the discussion panel.

"I have received a lot of mentorship at these meetings," Haney said. "I really cannot say enough about how the United States of America, the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard count on your leadership on a day-to-day basis."

Haney stressed the importance of each individual member of the Navy and that diversity leads to cre-

ative and innovative thinking that helps military leaders make decisions.

"Diversity of opinion and diversity of ideas is absolutely essential to deal with the complex and uncertain world where we operate," Haney said.

"As leaders, it is important that you think about the legacy you leave behind. You must treat everyone with dignity and respect. No matter what rank anyone is or how long they have been in service ... each one is a volunteer. We have to appreciate that and always be their biggest cheerleaders."

While in New Orleans, Haney also paid a visit to the Avondale shipyard where two ships, PCU

Anchorage (LPD 23) and PCU Somerset (LPD 25), are nearing completion of their construction.

Following a tour of Anchorage, Haney spoke with the crews of both new ships at an all hands call, expressing his excitement for the new additions to the fleet.

"I look forward to you being commissioned and operating in the fleet," he said. "You are setting the stage for the life of these warships. Your job going forward is to become the best operators possible. Learn as much as you can from the outstanding civilian workers here, so that you can deliver the operational capability that I require in the Pacific."

USS Hopper begins major maintenance period at Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

USS Hopper (DDG 70) entered dry dock July 18 at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) for a major maintenance period.

The docking selected restricted availability (DSRA) encompasses more than \$25 million of work, making it

one of the largest work packages conducted by the command on an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer.

Most of the hands-on work will be done by the lead contractor, BAE Systems Ship Repair Hawaii, and its subcontractors while PHNSY & IMF oversees and supervises the project.

"We have a very robust, integrated schedule and test-

ing plan to de-conflict work for all of the various maintenance and modernization activities," said Lt. Cmdr. Mitch Perrett, project officer for the Hopper DSRA. "The effort put forth into getting this right will really pay off in execution."

"We're looking forward to a safe, high-quality availability to keep USS Hopper fit to fight," Perrett said.

PHNSY & IMF is a field

activity of the Naval Sea Systems Command and a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the Navy's surface ships and submarines.

It is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,850 and an economic impact of \$925 million.

For more information on PHNSY & IMF, visit www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl/default.aspx.

U.S. Navy photo by Danielle Jones

USS Hopper (DDG 70) enters dry dock July 18 at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. The guided missile destroyer is undergoing more than \$25 million in maintenance and modernization work.



Joint and coalition partners perform RIMPAC operations



(Above) An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 47th Fighter Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La, descends from the skies to land on the 15th Wing flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on July 23 during the Rim of the Pacific Exercise.



A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from the 47th Fighter Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La, sit on the 15th Wing flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, during the Rim of the Pacific Exercise on July 23.

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Lauren Main



Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com/> or visit

<https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm>



Mrs. Hawaii 2012 will be guest speaker at Joint Spouses Conference Hawaii

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Stacey Bass Snee, who was crowned as Mrs. Hawaii 2012 at the local pageant held April 15, will be the guest speaker for the Joint Spouses’ Conference (JSC) Hawaii 2012.

The conference, themed “Anchors Away in Paradise,” will be held Oct. 20 at the Ford Island Conference Center. The on-line registration for this year’s Joint Spouses Conference Hawaii will be launched Sept. 7.

Snee, who is a Navy spouse, mother of two children, former naval officer and veteran, and registered dietician, will offer her insight on the role of military spouses in their communities.

“I have learned from these past few months of competing for and winning the title of Mrs. Hawaii that everyone has something to offer to their neighborhood, city or the broader community, and it may just take stepping a bit out of one’s comfort zone to ultimately be in a position to put your talents to work,” Snee said.

Snee, whose first-time pageant experience came with her win in this year’s Mrs. Hawaii pageant, said, “It was definitely a step out of my comfort zone to compete as the oldest contestant this year. But with challenge comes growth.”

She had some additional advice to offer other military spouses, encouraging them to share their talents and time with others.

“It also takes being present in the communities in which we live versus preoccupation with the last duty station or the next duty station or the place we will retire. As a transient group, it’s important for us to be in this moment and this place in order to really contribute to our spouses, one another



Photo courtesy of Stacy Snee

Navy spouse Stacy Snee is Mrs. Hawaii 2012.

and our community,” she said.

A registered dietician, Snee focuses much of her time and efforts on childhood obesity prevention. This is her platform as Mrs. Hawaii.

“I have worked with several organizations focused on child nutrition. Most recently, I worked with multi-ethnic families with children who are over-

weight or obese, and that experience opened my eyes to the need for more family-centered approaches in the fight against childhood obesity,” Snee explained.

At this year’s Joint Spouses Conference, spouses will be able to choose

from more than 25 workshops, held at such venues as Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pacific Aviation Museum, control tower and

hangar 79, Navy Lodge, Rainbow Bay Marina and Pearl Harbor barges.

“We’re very excited about the workshops at the upcoming conference. Our talented and enthusiastic presenters will appeal to your mind, body and soul, so we hope spouses from all over the islands will join us for a memorable day on beautiful and historic Ford Island,” said Joanne Neyland, an Army spouse and co-chair for the JSC workshops committee.

Military spouses will also have the opportunity to immerse themselves in interactive workshops, such as photography, interior decorating and art.

Attendees will be able to choose four workshops from the selection of more than 25 which are being offered. Some of the workshops will include Asian cooking as spouses learn the secrets behind preparing the perfect pad Thai, Korean barbecue beef and more.

Spouses will find out how to get the most bang for their military buck while exploring Hawaii’s diverse islands at an island-hopping workshop.

A workshop featuring a remembrance tour of Dec. 7, 1941 will provide an opportunity for conference attendees to board a VIP Navy barge and enjoy a special narrated tour of Pearl Harbor.

“There’s great satisfaction in watching nine plus months of teamwork and planning come together. With two plus months to go, the level of creativity and commitment from our team of 50 joint service spouse volunteers continues to amaze and inspire me daily.

“The hard work and attention to detail is often complex and time consuming, but we keep a sense of humor and are motivated to deliver,” said Kim Becker, a Navy

spouse and JSC director.

The annual Joint Spouses Conference provides a forum for spouses of active duty, reserve and retired military members of all services and ranks to learn, network and help each other in their challenging roles as spouses, parents, professionals and community leaders through workshops and special guest speakers.

“As an Army wife, I’m thankful to have the fantastic opportunity to share time with spouses in the sister services, with the vast majority being especially in the Navy. I’ve been particularly impressed with the collaboration among this joint service team, and I am confident that the results of our collective efforts will positively reflect on Oct. 20,” said Gretchen Escribano, an Army spouse and the deputy director for JSC.

Whether spouses have been on the island for awhile or are new to Hawaii, the conference offers a unique opportunity to meet and network with more than 350 spouses.

“I think the JSC is a great opportunity for military spouses from each of

the branches of service to come together to network and learn from each other while also having some fun. It’s a day to recognize what we have in common and draw strength from our shared experiences,” Snee said.

Register for the conference via the JSC website at <http://jschawaii.com> or Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/JointSpousesConference2012?ref=tn_tnmn.

Military spouses who are interested in attending can also obtain more information through military spouse groups island-wide and by visiting the JSC website or Facebook page.

“The generous support and contributions of many individuals and local businesses are enabling us to present one of the best conferences ever, and we welcome those still interested in contributing to this year’s JSC to contact us at jscdonations@gmail.com,” said Melissa Coudeyras, a Navy spouse and donations chair for JSC.

(Editor’s note: Check future issues of Ho’okele for more details about the 2012 Joint Spouses’ Conference Hawaii.)

Headed for Mrs. America Pageant

Before Mrs. Hawaii 2012, Stacey Snee, heads to Tucson, Ariz. to compete in the Mrs. America Pageant, she plans to hold a fundraiser sendoff at 4 p.m. Aug. 12 at P.F. Chang’s at Ward Center. Tickets for the event are \$10 and may be purchased by emailing her at mrshawaii2012@gmail.com or by visiting [Facebook.com/mrshawaii2012](https://www.facebook.com/mrshawaii2012).

The preliminary event to the pageant will be held Aug. 27. Fifteen semi-finalists will move on to compete in the finals on Aug. 29. According to Snee, supporters can vote for her by visiting the Mrs. America website at www.mrsamerica.com. Each vote costs \$1 and all of the proceeds go to charity. She explained that the two contestants who garner the most votes will automatically be in the top 15 semi-finalists.

Medical flight answers health care needs as top PACAF lab

**Story and photo by
Senior Airman Lauren
Main**

15th Wing Public Affairs

The Hickam Diagnostic and Therapeutic (D&T) Flight, the top lab in PACAF, has an unrivaled record when it comes to response times.

The flight is comprised of both radiology and laboratory technicians. Each functional area of the flight is subject to rigorous accountability processes.

“The minute an item comes off an instrument, within five minutes, we’ve got it in the system and have notified the provider with the results,” said Capt. Julie Kena, Hickam Diagnostic and Therapeutic Flight commander. “The national average is approximately one hour.”

In 2011, the flight underwent a rigorous inspection by the College of American Pathologists, in which a team of inspectors had a three-month window to drop in on the D&T flight for an inspection at any moment. Every drop of blood, every urine sample and culture can be inspected. The examiners pulled 2,000 items and, when the assessment was com-



Tech. Sgt. Robert Murray, 15th Medical Support Squadron Laboratory NCO-in-charge, tests lab samples July 19 at the Joint Biological Agent Identification and Diagnostic System facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

plete, there were zero findings and zero recommendations for improvement.

“Following that inspection, we were in the top three percent of the Air Force,” said Kena. “They couldn’t find one item that was a writeup. When you have a lab with zero findings, and zero recommendations... that’s rare.”

An excerpt from an article written by Karen Gordon, president of VA society for Clinical Laboratory Science,

is quoted, “I, or someone like me, have touched you hundreds of times, but you never saw me, never felt me. I give you hope, provide joy, and unfortunately, deliver bad news. I am never there to share in your excitement or comfort you in your times of sorrow. However, I still feel these emotions from a distance. I am a clinical laboratory scientist.”

The article was first published in “ASCLS Weekly,” a publication produced by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

“I live and die by those words,” Kena explained. “I’m so passionate about my job. I have the greatest team, and I’m so blessed to work with them all.”

It’s important to note,

Kena said, that the responsibilities of the D&T flight go beyond public perception. Specifically, they are responsible for more than testing urinalysis samples.

In the event that chemical warfare is waged on the base, Kena and her team are the first responders to determine the actions to be taken following the disaster. The Home Station Medical Response Lab Biological Detection Team moves to an alternate location where biological environmental engineers bring soil and water samples to the team for testing.

“If the base gets hit with the bio agent, we get activated,” she said. “We follow a checklist and follow it to a ‘T.’ We want to make sure

what we report out is accurate and correct. The reason the testing facility is not part of the medical group is because, if anything’s going to happen, we only want it to happen to us, and not our patients,” Kena said.

Kena said the lion’s share of the credit for the flight’s success go to the Airmen who make it up.

“This is an amazing flight when you look at the things that we’ve done. In the year and a half that I’ve been here, there hasn’t been a quarter that we haven’t won an award,” Kena said.

“My people are just amazing. It’s my team, it’s my people, it’s what we do every day, and we do it better than anyone else.”



U.S. Navy and Australian Navy divers prepare to survey a sunken tugboat off the coast of Oahu. The sailors are working together in support of the biennial Rim of the Pacific Exercise from June 29 to Aug. 3 in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

New Navy docs dive into ‘summer experience’

**Story and photo by
MC2 Heidi McCormick**

*Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs*

Junior officers from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences experienced Navy life in the fleet during their required two-week “Summer Experience” which concluded July 28.

The Sailors were sent to Hawaii during the Rim of the Pacific exercise which provides collaborative training with 22 countries. Aboard the salvage vessel USNS Navajo, the future Navy Medical Corps officers experienced a unique diving mission.

Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) hosted the dive about two miles off the coast Oahu, while members from the U.S. Coast Guard out of San Diego and Australian navy clearance divers joined in the event.

Diving is a dangerous job and the need for medical personnel is important. Witnessing the process first hand is the first step in learning ways to prevent and treat injury that may occur during a dive operation. The officers recognized the potential dangers after witnessing the many preparations and safety steps preceding the dive.

“Observing the dive process allows us to see the inherent danger and risks associated with diving. This gives us a better understanding of the mechanisms of injury associating with diving. This will undoubtedly enhance our ability to treat our patients,” said Ensign Mary Carrington, one of the future medical officers.

The divers welded shut all hatches in a sunken tug boat to complete the mission. The boat was previously sub-

merged in a controlled sinking to serve as a training platform for MDSU-1. The possibility that civilians could potentially injure themselves while recreationally diving in the shipwreck provoked a need to patch the holes and entryways closed.

The new officers on “Summer Experience” described their first observations with a dive team at work.

“It seemed like there were many ways a diver could be injured, such as being crushed by the stage or thrown overboard,” Morgan said.

“We also were impressed how organized the dive was. Each diver played a critical role in maintaining the safety of the two divers in the water,” added Ensign Tracey Honohan.

The officers received training about how to tend to the divers and learned about the treatment of diving injuries in a recompression chamber.

While expanding their Navy knowledge in Hawaii, the “Summer Experience” included other naval activities as well. The officers learned about submarines and special warfare and were given hands-on training opportunities such as shooting on the small arms range.

Lt. Cmdr. Anna Choe, undersea/dive medical officer for MDSU-1, said the new docs received plenty of experience during their visit.

“Some of my objectives for them were to learn about Navy divers and what they do, about MDSU-1 and its chain of command, a little bit about Pearl Harbor history, and about becoming an undersea medical officer. But really, medical students study so hard that the most important thing was that they have fun and they did,” Choe said.